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CONFIDENTIAL

BACKGROUND ON: Typescript
4 January 1983
FB M 83-10001

Soviet Propaganda on U.S.
Forces in Europe

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4 JANUARY 1983

SOVIET PROPAGANDA ON U.S. FORCES IN EUROPE

Soviet propaganda on U.S. forces in Europe has shifted over the course of the last two decades. Twenty years ago Moscow was openly campaigning for the removal of U.S. forces under the slogan "Europe for the Europeans." Presently, Moscow's public efforts are directed at freezing the military status quo between NATO and Warsaw Pact forces in Europe and at a "mutual" reduction of the forces of both sides on the Continent.

Moscow continues to encourage West European resistance to U.S. defense and arms control policies, but the target of such efforts for the last several years has been what Soviet officials say are attempts by Washington to upset the existing balance of military forces between NATO and the Warsaw Pact. Currently Soviet energies are directed primarily at undermining European support for NATO's December 1979 decision to deploy new U.S. intermediate-range missiles.

Soviet spokesmen no longer tout unilateral reduction of U.S. forces on the Continent as a feasible goal. Recent calls in the U.S. Congress for the reduction of U.S. forces in Europe have drawn not praise but criticism from Moscow. Soviet commentators have characterized such calls as pressure tactics designed to force European support for Washington's strategy toward the USSR. Soviet spokesmen have even suggested that periodic U.S.-West European disputes, such as that over the "pipeline embargo," are not grave enough to call into question the basic military relationship underlying NATO.

BACKGROUND

The present Soviet posture on U.S. forces in Europe developed in the early 1970's when Moscow agreed to include Washington in negotiations on European security issues. Up to the mid-1960's Moscow and its Warsaw Pact allies were urging the removal of U.S. forces from Europe and the convening of an "all-European" conference--meaning no U.S. participation--to discuss unresolved postwar military security questions. By 1970 Moscow had eased its opposition to U.S. participation and dropped its call for unilateral U.S. withdrawal from Europe. Moscow's new strategy was symbolized by its agreement to enter the Vienna negotiations on the mutual and balanced reduction of forces in central Europe (MBFR) in 1973, a move that undercut domestic U.S. pressures for unilateral reductions in U.S. forces on the Continent.

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1. LOGNOTE - Analysis Group, 4 January 1983

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[redacted] SUPPORT FOR AMBASSADOR GALBRAITH. DD/FBIS passed to us on [redacted] request for assistance in providing Ambassador Galbraith in Paris with an assessment of "Soviet efforts in Europe and the U.S. aimed at reduction or total withdrawal of U.S. Forces in Europe." [redacted] and I prepared, based on [redacted] files and some assistance from Research Branch, a one-page response pointing out how the Soviet posture on this issue has evolved over the last two decades. Until the mid-1960's Moscow called openly for a unilateral withdrawal of U.S. forces from Europe. Since the late 1960's Moscow has publicly embraced the merits of military balance in Europe and devoted its propaganda to proposals for a freezing of the status quo and a mutual reduction of armed forces in the region. The response was sent [redacted] on 4 January for inclusion in a cable to the [redacted] on the 5th. along with a contribution from [redacted]

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(cc: D/FBIS, AC/LRB)

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FBIS ANALYSIS GROUP
4 JANUARY 1983

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